

National Cannery Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information
Letter



For N. C. A.
Members

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The Future of Canned Foods Week
Secretary Jardine Addresses Cannery Meeting
American Wholesale Grocers Association to Meet in Washington
Navy Asks Bids on Evaporated Milk
Changes in Canned Food Freight Rates Suspended
Raw Products Work of N. C. A. Explained to Tri-State Packers
Tentative Standard for Sauerkraut
Maryland Proposes Enlarged Research Service to Canning Industry
Annual Convention of National Association of Retail Grocers
Charges Exchange with Uniform Price Maintenance
Italy Considering Canned Milk Regulations
Southeast Ports Put on Rate Parity
Action Against Northwestern Coal Dock Operators Association
Definitions and Standards Committee Will Meet in Chicago

The Future of Canned Foods Week.

Within the next five weeks the canning industry will decide the future of Canned Foods Week. Distributors have contributed very largely to the success of the past campaigns, and they have made it known that unless the canning industry comes unitedly to the support of the Week they will no longer cooperate. Cannerys are therefore being asked to pledge financial assistance on the basis of \$1 per thousand cases of seasonal products, these pledges all to be in the hands of the National Cannery Association prior to May 9.

In view of the situation with respect to the distributors' cooperation, President Trego of the National Cannery Association called a hurried meeting of cannerys representing state associations, which was held at Chicago, March 27. At this meeting it was decided that a minimum of sixty thousand dollars was absolutely necessary to finance the cannerys' share of the next Canned Foods Week, and that this could best be raised by a contribution from cannerys on the basis stated. State associations are asking pledges from their members, and where there are no state organizations, the National Association is communicating with the individual firms.

All pledges are to be assembled at the office of the National Cannery Association so that totals for the states may be compiled for consideration at an adjourned meeting of the state association representatives to be held in Chicago shortly after May 9. The individual pledges, of course, will not be disclosed. At this meeting it will be determined from the results of the canvass whether or not there is to be another Canned Foods Week.

The benefits of Canned Foods Week are beyond question. The distributors are ready to cooperate - they are not asking the cannerys to finance the entire campaign - and it rests with the canning industry to demonstrate that it is willing and ready to bear its share of the cost. The funds will be expended for the pur-

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chase of window displays and other necessary materials, and the balance will be apportioned to the local markets where distributors raise like funds for the purpose.

The time is short, and every member of the National Cannery Association is urged to turn in his pledge of support, either direct or through his state association, at the earliest possible date.

Secretary Jardine Addresses Cannery Meeting.

Cooperation between the farmer and business interests was urged by the new Secretary of Agriculture, William M. Jardine, in an address before the recent annual meeting of the Tri-State Packers Association at Frederick, Maryland.

"During my administration of the Department of Agriculture", said Secretary Jardine, "one of our chief problems will be to promote a closer sense of cooperation between the farmer and business interests; between all agencies from the producer to the consumer. Without this cooperation it will be difficult to make progress. Business interests all over the country are showing a wholesome desire to cooperate with agriculture and a great deal of good is resulting. What we need to do is to give them the advantage of our agricultural institutions so that their efforts will be most beneficial."

Referring specifically to problems in the Tri-State territory, Secretary Jardine said:

"Vegetable growers in this section have numerous fundamental problems to contend with. One of the keys to the situation, as it appears to me, is for greater efficiency in production. A high quality product is absolutely necessary. I raise this point with you because it vitally concerns manufacturers as well as producers. Satisfactory solution of the production problems will hinge a great deal on the cooperation between all interests."

After referring to aid that the Department had given to growers of canners' crops in respect to seed problems, fertilizers, plant diseases, pea aphid, etc., Secretary Jardine summed up the situation by stating:

"What we need to do is to single out a few simple and constructive things which farmers can bring about to increase the efficiency of their plant, for in reality the farm is a plant just as are your canneries. Headway on any kind of progress will call for three-sided cooperation; namely, agricultural institutions including your State agencies, the producers, and the members of this Association. These problems can be solved if everybody will pull together."

Members of the National Cannery Association will be particularly interested in the views of Secretary Jardine, because of the work now being done by the Association's Raw Products Research Bureau in the way of cooperation with Federal, State and other agencies in solving growers' problems.

American Wholesale Grocers Association to Meet in Washington.

The next annual convention of the American Wholesale Grocers Association will be held in Washington, D. C., opening on May 26. The convention will last four days, closing on the 29th, and an interesting program is being arranged. Reduced railroad fares from all points have been secured.

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Navy Asks Bids on Evaporated Milk.

The Navy is advertising for bids on 710,000 pounds of evaporated milk under Schedule #3558, to be opened May 5, 1925. Copies of the schedule can be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington.

Changes in Canned Food Freight Rates Suspended.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has suspended from April 1 ~~and~~ May 1 to July 30, the operation of schedules filed by railroads proposing to revise the rates on canned goods, in carloads, including catsup, fruit jams or fruit jellies, from Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah, and group points, to points in Oklahoma, when shipped in glass, earthenware, or metal cans. The proposed revision would, in most instances, result in substantial increases. A hearing on this case will be held at Salt Lake City before Examiner Gaddess on May 8, 1925.

The Commission has also suspended from April 1 until July 30, the new individual and joint rates and charges proposed by the Chicago Northwestern Railroad Company, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company and others, on canned goods from Minnesota, Wisconsin, etc., to Eastern Seaboard and Canadian points. The case has been assigned for hearing before Examiner Koebel at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, May 20.

Raw Products Work of N. C. A. Explained to Tri-State Packers.

C. G. Woodbury, of the National Cannery Association Raw Products Research Bureau, addressed the annual meeting of the Tri-State Packers Association on the need of increased efficiency in production of canners' crops. It was shown that the losses experienced by growers and canners each year through use of poor seed, unadapted varieties and strains, improper soil fertilization, and through damage from insect pest and plant disease, are largely preventable. The relation of high yield to raw products quality was emphasized, and it was pointed out that high yield per acre means lower growing costs and larger profit to the producer as well as high quality to the packer. The need was emphasized for additional research on sweet corn varieties, control of ear worm, fertilizers for corn, peas and tomatoes. Cannerymen were told that rotation of crops by which peas do not follow peas is the surest way of avoiding losses from pea root rot, while following of peas by peas is almost certain to bring serious loss from this soil-borne disease. Inoculation of seed peas was advised for all new pea lands.

Tentative Standard for Sauerkraut.

The revision of the present definition of sauerkraut proposed by the Joint Committee on Definitions and Standards for food products, has been announced and criticisms and suggestions are invited, these to be sent to the Secretary of the Joint Committee on Definitions and Standards, Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, D. C., prior to June 1, 1925.

The text of the tentative definition and standard for sauerkraut follows:

Sauerkraut is the clean, sound product, of characteristic acid flavor, obtained by the full fermentation, chiefly lactic, of properly prepared and shredded cabbage in the presence of not less than two per cent (2%) nor more than three per cent (3%) of salt.

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It contains, upon completion of the fermentation, not less than one and one-half per cent (1.5%) of acid, expressed as lactic acid. Sauerkraut which has been rebrined in the process of canning or repacking contains not less than one per cent (1%) of acid, expressed as lactic acid.

Maryland Proposes Enlarged Research Service to Canning Industry.

Director H. J. Patterson, of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, addressing the Tri-State Packers at Frederick, stated that the Maryland Station is preparing to organize a comprehensive research project on canning crop production and improvement. The additional funds available under the Furnell Bill will make this possible. A rising vote of thanks was extended to Director Patterson.

Annual Convention of National Association of Retail Grocers.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Convention of the National Association of Retail Grocers will be held in Dubuque, Iowa, on June 22-25, inclusive. Reduced railroad fares will be granted from all points to Dubuque. Among subjects to be considered at the Convention are problems of management, cost of research work, elimination of waste, reduction of number and sizes of containers, and cooperative advertising, buying and delivering.

Charges Exchange with Uniform Price Maintenance.

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a complaint against an exchange maintained by abrasive paper and cloth manufacturers, charging unfair methods of competition through the maintenance of uniform prices. The complaint recites that the exchange and the manufacturers it represents sell about 90 per cent of the abrasives sold annually in the United States, and that the fixing of uniform prices was effected by the establishment of uniform methods of computing prices and the exchange among members of price lists, discounts and other data.

Italy Considering Canned Milk Regulations.

The Italian Government now has under consideration, according to the American Commercial Attaché in Rome, the adoption of marking and other import regulations on canned milk. At present there are no special regulations, such as were adopted in 1923 for fish, vegetables, fruits and others.

Southeast Ports Put on Rate Parity.

The United States Shipping Board has approved the resolutions adopted by the Gulf Shipping Conference and the South Atlantic Steamship Conference, establishing the principle of parity of rate on commodities originating for ocean shipment in competitive territory whether such commodities move through the Gulf, the South Atlantic or North Atlantic ports. This action of the Board formally abolishes the differentials against the Gulf ports of 15 cents a hundred pounds and against the South Atlantic ports of 7 1/2 cents a hundred pounds heretofore existing.

Action Against Northwestern Coal Dock Operators Association.

The Federal Trade Commission has issued an order requiring ten coal dock operators organized as the Northwestern Coal Dock Operators Association to cease and desist from entering into any agreement or combination to restrain or suppress competition in the sale of bituminous and anthracite coal at wholesale or retail.

According to the Commission these operators, in order to remedy certain practices which individual companies followed to obtain trade, and which they deemed unethical and unfair, entered into understandings and agreements to eliminate such competitive practices and to eliminate all price competition between and among the companies.

Among other things, the order specifically prohibits the individual companies from furnishing to the Secretary of the Association statistics on cost of operation, orders for coal to be shipped, tonnage and average price of coal received, daily statement of sales, copies of contracts, lists of delinquent customers, and other information of similar character that might be used in restraining or suppressing competition.

Definitions and Standards Committee Will Meet in Chicago.

Chairman Morritt Greene of the Association's Committee on Definitions and Standards has called a meeting of the Committee to be held at Chicago at the time of the annual convention of the Western Cannery Association.

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